

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

# The Whisper

October 2012

CIRCULATION: 1,275

Wamboin Community Assn:

[www.wamboincommunity.asn.au](http://www.wamboincommunity.asn.au)

Bywong Community:

[www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)

Fire Brigade:

<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

All proceeds from advertisements after printing costs go to the WAMBOIN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION that started The Whisper as a community newsletter in 1981, and continues to own it. The newsletter is distributed to all letterboxes in Wamboin and Bywong (plus other localities in our fire brigade's area) at the start of each month, except January. Contributions from all residents are encouraged, valued and the main content of the newsletter. The Editor is Ned Noel, 17 Reedy Creek Place, Wamboin, 2620, phone 6238-3484. Please email contributions to either [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn.au) or mail them. The deadline for the next issue of The Whisper is always the last Sunday of the month, 7 pm, so for the November 2012 issue the deadline is Sunday, 28 October, 7 pm. Instant Colour Press will then multiply 1 copy into more than 1200. Then the new issue goes to volunteer deliverers by the weekend.

**LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES Fire/Police/Ambulance - Dial Triple Zero (000) All Hours**

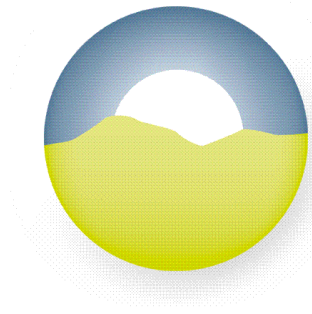
**Bungendore Police: 6238 1244 Wamboin Fire Brigade Info Centre: 0409 991 340 Ambulance Bookings: 131233**

## LOCAL FACILITIES AND CONTACTS

<b>Wamboin Community Assn</b>	Peter Harrison, President	6238 3525	president@wamboincommunity.asn..au
<b>Bywong Community</b>	Darryl Bourke, President	6230 3055	
<b>Fire Brigade</b>	David Cochrane, Captain	0409 991 340	
<b>Wamboin Markets</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
<b>Sutton School Playgroup</b>	Johanna Bradley, Convenor	0406 399 713	johannabradley@dodo.com.au
<b>Landcare</b>	Roger Good, President	6236 9048	
<b>Community Nurse</b>	Heather Morrison, Bungendore	6238 1333	
<b>Emergency Services</b>	NSW Call Centre, Staff	132 500	
<b>Emergency Services Admin.</b>	Colin Brown, Controller	6238 1067	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Peter Greenwood, JP	6238 3358	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Keith France, JP	6238 3596	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Margaret Fletcher, JP	6238 1211	
<b>Justice of the Peace</b>	Jill Sedaitis, JP	6236 9559	
<b>Wamboin Scout Group</b>	Peter Harrison, contact	6238 3525	
<b>Wamboin Pony Club</b>	Robyn Slater, Senior Instructor	6238 3472	
<b>Geary's Gap Pony Club</b>	Katarina Biondic, contact	0421 859 917	
<b>Wamboin Play Group</b>	Emma Auzins, Convener	6238 3974	
<b>Wamboin Hall Bookings</b>	Joan Mason, contact	6238 3258	
<b>Church - Anglican</b>	Robyn Robertson, Warden	6238 3202	
<b>Christian Prayer Group</b>	Steve & Imelda Taylor, contacts	6238 3220	
<b>KYB Bible Study Group</b>	Yvonne Barrett, contact	6230 3539	
<b>Golf</b>	Peter Greenwood, Golfer	6238 3358	p.greenwood2@bigpond.com
<b>Injured Wildlife</b>	Wildcare, Helpline	6299 1966	
<b>Wonderful Women of Wmbn</b>	Gail Ritchie Knight, Contact	0416 097 500	whirlwind@argonite.com.au
<b>Lake George VIEW Club</b>	Lydia Zielinski, contact	6230 3488	
<b>Wamboin Book Group</b>	Alice Scott, Secretary	6238 3178	

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Alana Stenning	pet sitting	6238 3030	Jess Smith	pet sitting, house sitting	6238 3115
Fiona Skea	baby sitting	6238 3290	Ashleigh Caird	baby sitting	6238 0746
Rebecca Purdie	pet sitting	6238 3343	Gabrielle Simpkin	baby sitting/ pets itting	6238-1335
Mara Sutcliffe	pet sitting	6238 3228	Jack & Matilda Whitney	pet care, baby sitting, odd jobs	6238 3059
Jordan Brown	baby sitting	0414-907-921			

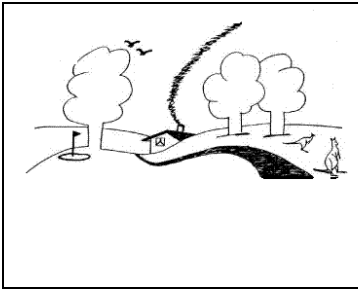


sutton  
REAL ESTATE

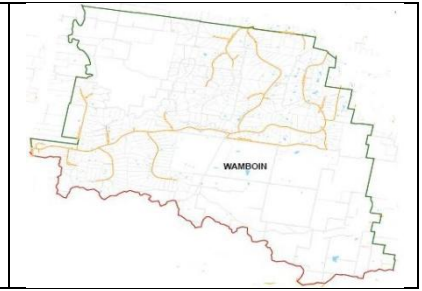
*acres of experience*

## **Properties Recently Under Offer/Sold by Sutton Real Estate**

- UNDER OFFER** - 81 Majara Street, Bungendore - \$650,000+
- UNDER OFFER** - 3 Lithgow Place, Bungendore - \$649,000
- UNDER OFFER** - 8 Eyre Street, Bungendore - \$684,000
- UNDER OFFER** - Bungendore Road, Bywong - \$540,000
- UNDER OFFER** - 20 Birch Drive, Bungendore - \$615,000
- UNDER OFFER** - 1478 Bungendore Road, Bywong - \$850,000
- UNDER OFFER** - 2 Hyland Drive, Bungendore - \$619,000
- UNDER OFFER** - 130 Sugarloaf Ridge Road, Carwoola - \$549,000
- SOLD** - 419 Back Creek Road, Gundaroo - \$910,000
- SOLD** - 111 Weeroona Drive, Wamboin - \$870,000
- SOLD** - 2 Larmer Street, Bungendore - \$537,500
- SOLD** - 15 Pony Place, Carwoola - \$930,000
- SOLD** - 34 Osborne Street, Bungendore - \$502,000
- SOLD** - Lot 7 Warramunga Close, Wamboin - \$530,000
- SOLD** - 484 Marked Tree Road, Gundaroo - \$605,000
- SOLD** - 24 Westwood Circuit, Bungendore - \$632,000



## Wamboin Community Association President's Paragraphs



September was certainly busy, and my paragraphs this month are mainly ones of thanks.

**Palerang Council Elections** — First of all thanks to everyone for their support in the lead up to, and especially to those who helped during the election campaign. With both Keith France's and my being elected, we will have strong representation for the term of this Council.

With my subsequent election as mayor, it would be difficult from many points of view to continue in my role as president of the WCA, and so I will be standing down after the October meeting, a little short of my third year in the job. Lofty always said that after about three years, people start talking about you (the implication being that the comments were not entirely positive), so it's probably good to be ahead of the game!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support they've provided the WCA, and me personally, during my time as president. We have a great community and that is reflected nowhere more than in the quality of our Community Association

**Gala Wamboin Bonfire and Fireworks Night** — What a fantastic evening! Perfect weather, particularly mild for this time of the year, a great range of stalls providing the catering, and the fireworks that just keep coming from Martin Brady, from local company Fireworks Australia (Ph. 4845 1051; <http://www.fireworksaustralia.com.au> – gotta give 'em a plug, 'cause Martin does a great job for us!)

It was certainly the best attended evening I've seen, with cars already parked past my place (in Bingley Way) before 5.30pm! Casual estimates had the numbers getting up around 2000, and there were still plenty around the fire when we locked up the Hall at 10.30pm.

Thanks, as always, to our RFS volunteers for running the show, and all the community groups for their participation, once again demonstrating just what a fantastic place Wamboin is to live. To quote one of The Whisper's long time contributors, I wouldn't live anywhere else!

**Upcoming Events** — Information on all upcoming events within the community ("What's on in Wamboin") is provided on the WCA website. Just go to <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au> and follow the relevant links for more details on any event of interest. If you belong to a local community group and would like your event(s) included, please email details to the WCA Webmaster at [webmaster@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@wamboincommunity.asn.au).

**WCA Electronic Noticeboard** — The WCA electronic noticeboard is a convenient way to keep up with community activities. Subscribe by visiting the WCA website at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/noticeboard>

**The Whisper On-Line** — Remember that copies of The Whisper are available on-line at <http://wamboincommunity.asn.au/whisper> on the first Sunday of the month.

-- Pete Harrison ([president@wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:president@wamboincommunity.asn.au))

### Looking for a great horse vet?

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- **If hospitalisation is needed:** Our state of the art hospital means that your horse will get great care under the supervision of our dedicated team of Vets and Nurses ...Fast!
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Sutton





## Wanted Properties for Sale



Jan has been receiving solid enquiry from prospective purchasers for all types of property. She has many disappointed buyers that missed out on the recent properties she has sold who are cashed up and ready to buy. Please do not hesitate to call for a **FREE APPRAISAL** anytime!

Jan was bought up on the land & appreciates the amount of time, expense & care that goes into any farming operation – no matter how big or small the property is.

Dams, bores, animal shelters, sheds, fences, tanks, pumps etc are all important attributes that can't be overlooked in any inspection and must be pointed out to any potential buyer.

Because of her background in farming she understands your efforts & will not miss important infrastructure that is commonly overlooked by people with less farming knowledge.

This is all factored into a **FREE** appraisal of your property & differentiates the price between yours and a neighbour's property.

Please don't hesitate to call her for an honest appraisal of your property.

**Jan Ladmore** Ph: **0407 890 527** 7 Days

E-mail: **jan.ladmore@bigpond.com**

Horizon has a very good brochure that is a guide called 'Steps to Buying Your Home' in NSW & ACT. This offers advice for both the Seller & Buyer. If you would like a copy sent to you contact Jan Ladmore

## Bywong Community News

[www.bywongcommunity.org.au](http://www.bywongcommunity.org.au)

**Darryl Bourke, President**

**This News Put Together by the  
Bywong Committee**



**Entertainment Centre?** Thanks to Community funding and the technical efforts of John-Pierre Favre and Darryl Bourke, the Community has been able to equip the Bywong Hall with a permanently mounted projector and large roll-down screen, in addition to generous floodlighting which will make the car-park a much safer and more welcoming area. The Community hopes that these improvements will help make the Hall more attractive to local casual users and increase its overall use and versatility.

**What's you interest?** The Community's last meeting decided to introduce more topical discussions to its meetings, and to investigate the demand for guest speakers on matters of local interest. The Y canvassed the possibility of evenings focussed on future plans for Macs Reef Road, solar and wind power, water limits and dams on rural residential blocks, weeds and the threat of Chilean Needle Grass, status of the LEP, injured wildlife and snake handling, and lighting rural residences. If you have a pet subject of interest in our local area, please let us know – speak to a Committee Member.


**Brand New Council.** The Community congratulates all those who were elected to the new Council at the recent election, and to our new Mayor Pete Harrison, from our sister Association in Wamboin. We have nothing but admiration and gratitude to those who are prepared to give their time and effort to steering the ship of our local government. We are pleased that the make-up of the new Council reflects such diversity, both in philosophy and geography, although we shall miss the presence and support of our local Community member Anne Goonan, who did not stand for re-election. Thanks Anne, and we are privileged to still have you as a leading and dedicated member of the Community. Pity that no-one from Bywong put their hand up to take Anne's place – we hope we can do better next time.

**New Rules.** The Department of Fair Trading has accepted the Community's proposed new constitution, which has simplified many of the requirements, particularly in regard to membership. The membership fee has been abolished, and membership has been limited to a year, so that we can be sure that our membership is current. Yearly membership can be taken out, or renewed, simply by asking a committee member, either at the annual or other meeting, a Community function, or informally at any other time during the year. The number of committee members has been increased to enable us to spread the load, so don't feel backward about putting yourself forward even if you haven't a lot of time.

**Next Year.** Dates for the Community's main functions in 2013 are Car Boot Sale 24 March; Clean Up Australia 3 March; Trivia Night 13 July and AGM 26 August.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Community is at 7.30 on Monday 8 October at the Bywong Hall. All are welcome to take part.

<b>Fencing Problems?</b>	For all your <b>RURAL, COMMERCIAL OR DOMESTIC FENCING</b> needs...	Call: <b>NIC CLANCY</b> <b>0409 866 970</b> or <b>4845 8235</b>	Preferred supplier for Environment ACT. Landcare & Greening Australia contacts for grants.
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<p><i>Your Local Electrician</i> <b>Andrew Lemon</b> APL Electrical Services</p> <p>NSW Licence: 120626C</p> <p>Electrical maintenance, new homes, extensions, sheds, power to water bores and more.</p> <p><i>Punctual and dependable reputation.</i></p> <p>Please call <b>Andrew on 0428 466 525.</b></p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b> Locally grown Native and Exotic shrubs and trees, suitable for this area. 150 mm (6") pots \$5.00 200 mm (8") pots \$9.00 Fresh Cut Flowers</p>  <p>Kleenheat Gas Dealer, Wamboin, Sutton and Geary's Gap Area. - Rural Services WIYAGIBA TRADING – Dave and Jane Hubbard 37 Poppet Road, Wamboin Ph/Fax 6238 3308 Nursery Sales Closed Due to Rebuilding.</p>
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## Pony Club by Steve Quick

Calling all local horse riders! Wamboin Pony Club wants you! If you have access to your own horse and are aged from 5-25 come along and enjoy the company of other riders and experience what pony club has to offer. You will get the chance to improve and learn many horse riding skills in a safe environment. Rally days are a great social day out. Not only do you have fun with your horse, there is always a BBQ lunch for you and the family to enjoy. Our club has dedicated instructors who will not only help your riding improve but make riding enjoyable. Wamboin Pony club usually meet's on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month on our grounds at the end of Canning Close. We would love to have some more rider's join us so come along and see what our club has to offer.

For information about Wamboin Pony Club, upcoming rally days and contact details for our club see [www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au](http://www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au) We hope to see you soon.

### Wamboin 15 years ago: from the Whisper of October 1997 Circulation: 600

In his column "Yarrowlumla Council News", Councillor Peter Greenwood reported at length on the 3-week hearing of the Land and Environment Court to determine the case of Tiocliff P.L. versus Yarrowlumla Shire Council over Council's refusal to grant an application for a quarry on Mt Bywong above Sutton. The hearing commenced in Sydney and after 2 weeks spent a day touring the site and local community area, 2 hearing days in Queanbeyan Court, then back to Sydney for the final days. Peter attended 4 days of the last hearing week.

In addition to exhaustive studies by Council staff and independent consultants' reports, Peter wrote, "I cannot praise highly enough the Sutton and Geary's Gap Community, who not only submitted many expert reports, but also attended the hearing both in the stand and in actually cross examining the applicant's experts.....It was extremely pleasing to see how the community group worked so well and so closely with Council staff to defend the Council's decision. It was a valuable lesson not only to me but to all those involved to demonstrate the difficult circumstances in which Council must operate when making controversial decisions."

....."In closing this report I must mention that Council is not anti-development and on many occasions has approved quarries, but in areas where it did not have the adverse impact of the current proposal." -- Peter Greenwood, Councillor.

### Caza's Garden

What was an uncultivated bush block at **194 Denley Drive, Wamboin** just twenty years ago is now a beautifully designed and flowing garden featuring gorgeous vistas through the property and down to a lovely dam.

Garden owners Kevin and Carol Bell describe their garden as a team effort – Kevin came up with 'the big picture' and created the beds, while Carol did the planting.

"We have done all the hard yards ourselves, from garden edging to making the ponds, pathways, the pergola and arbour, the adobe features, and all of the steel and metal features throughout the garden," says Kevin.

Paths wind through beds full of thriving Australian natives, including wattles, banksias, callistemons and wax flowers. Other lovely features include a 23-year-old weeping cherry, camellias, Japanese maples, and a small fernery under the shade of a pittosporum.

There are five ponds, which start at the back of the house and lead down a granite pathway through a pretty wisteria-covered arbour. Light refreshments will be available.

<b>Garden address</b>	194 Denley Drive, Wamboin	<i>Open Gardens Australia 25 Years and Growing</i>
<b>Opening</b>	20 & 21 October 2012, 10am to 4.30pm	
<b>Admission</b>	\$7 (under 18 free)	



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# The Wamboin Firefighter

The Wamboin Firefighter newsletter is produced by the Wamboin Rural Fire Brigade for the benefit of residents and property owners in the brigade's area i.e. the localities of Wamboin, Bywong, and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway).

## THE BUSHFIRE DANGER PERIOD HAS BEGUN

(1<sup>st</sup> October – 31<sup>st</sup> March)

### THERE IS A REAL RISK OF UNCONTROLLED FIRES IN OUR AREA

TO REPORT FIRES OR SMOKE SIGHTINGS  
RING TRIPLE ZERO



#### FIRE PERMITS

With few exceptions, during the declared Bushfire Danger Period a fire permit is required for any fire in the open.

For further advice and to seek a Fire Permit contact the local Fire Control Centre (Lake George Zone FCC in Queanbeyan) on (02) 6297 1840 during weekday business hours. To contact the Wamboin brigade directly email [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au) or phone 0409 991 340.

## PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

### FIRE PERMITS

We're now in the declared bush fire danger period for 2012-2013. With few specific exceptions, **fires cannot be lit or maintained in the open without a permit.**

If you are intending to dispose of green waste by fire and you can't wait until next winter to burn it, you'll need to arrange for a burn permit. Authorised (volunteer) members of the NSW Rural Fire Service can inspect your property, and if satisfied that disposal by fire can be managed safely by the property owner or resident, they can issue a burn permit.

Please be aware that permits cannot usually be provided at short notice and anyone wishing to obtain a permit should make arrangements well in advance of the proposed burn.

For more information about burning during the fire danger period, please visit the NSW Rural Fire Service website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and click on the 'Total Fire Bans and Fire Permits' heading or, if you are reading The Whisper on-line click on the following url: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp\\_content.cfm?cat\\_id=1114](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/dsp_content.cfm?cat_id=1114).

To seek a permit for a burn in the Wamboin, Bywong, Sutton Park, Eaglehawk areas, email [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au) or phone 0409 991 340.

### BUSHFIRE PREPARATIONS

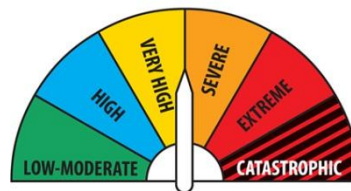
#### **PREPARE.**

You must make important decisions before the fire season

- Your Bush Fire Survival Plan is one of the best ways to help improve the safety of you and your family before the impact of, or during a bush fire.
- Preparation is not just about cleaning up around the house and having a plan. It is also about making sure you consider your physical, mental and emotional preparedness. Prepare yourself and your family for bush fires.

<p>starts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regardless of your decision to Leave Early or Stay and Defend, you still need to <u>prepare your property</u> against the threat of a bush fire.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACT.</b> The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of knowing what to do is knowing the <u>Bush Fire Danger Ratings</u>.</li> <li>The Fire Danger Ratings should be your first trigger for activating your <u>Bush Fire Survival Plan</u>. The safety of you, your family and your home may depend on it.</li> <li>During periods of increased fire danger and when there is a bush fire in your area, it's important that you <u>stay up to date</u>.</li> <li>Information can be found in a variety of places and formats. For more details on what information is available visit the RFS <u>information during bush fires page</u>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SURVIVE.</b> Fires may threaten without warning so you need to know what you will do to survive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The levels are Advice, Watch and Act and Emergency Warning. These <u>alert levels</u> are used as a fire spreads.</li> <li>During a fire, you need to follow your Bush Fire Survival Plan. That means you should have already decided if you are going to <u>Leave Early or Stay and Defend</u> your home.</li> <li>The safest option for you and your family during a bush fire is to leave early. Sometimes, things don't go to plan. That's why you need a backup plan. <u>Neighbourhood Safer Places</u> have been introduced for this reason. You should check if there is a <u>Neighbourhood Safer Place</u> near you and note it in your <u>Bush Fire Survival Plan</u>.</li> <li>During a bush fire, it's important you have ready access to items which may save your life. Find out what you should put in your <u>Emergency Survival Kit</u>.</li> <li>The heat from a bush fire can kill you. That's why it's important to wear clothing that will not only protect you from the heat but also from smoke and embers. <u>Know what to wear during a fire</u> to give you the best chance of survival.</li> <li>During periods of increased fire danger and once a fire starts, you need to stay up to date. <u>Know where you will get information during a fire</u>.</li> </ul>

## FIRE DANGER RATING



The Fire Danger Rating (FDR) is an early indicator of potential danger. It is an assessment of the potential fire behavior, the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and the potential impact on the community should a bush fire occur on a given day. The FDR is determined by the Fire Danger Index (FDI). The FDI is a combination of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought. When a FDR is advised, you need to take it seriously and be prepared to act. It should act as your first trigger for action.

The Fire Danger Rating signs for our area are located near the intersections of:

- Norton Rd and Sutton Rd (Wamboin),
- Macs Reef Rd and Harriott Rd (Bywong),
- Bungendore Rd and Joe Rocks Rd (Bungendore),
- Bungendore Rd and Summerhill Rd (Bywong), and
- Federal Hwy Service Rd and Goolabri Dr (Sutton Park).

The Fire Danger Rating for our area can also be viewed on the brigade's website at:

<http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au>

### Information During Bush Fires

During periods of increased fire danger and when there is a bush fire in your area, it's important that you stay up to date.



You can stay up to date by:

- Knowing the Fire Danger Rating for your area, especially on hot, dry and windy days.
- Look and listen for information on TV, radio, the internet, mobile phones and by speaking with neighbours, friends and family.
- If you receive a Bush Fire Alert, take it seriously and act promptly.
- Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke or the smell of smoke.
- Calling 1800 NSW RFS (1800 679 737)
- Don't rely on a single source for emergency information.

You can find information on current incidents attended by the NSW RFS by visiting the NSW Rural Fire Service website at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) and clicking on 'Current Fires and Incidents' in Quick Links or, if you are reading The Whisper on-line, click on the following link: [Current Incidents page](#)

During periods of major fire activity, you can also check on the Major Fire Updates section of the NSW RFS website

Remember – some fires start and spread so quickly that there may not be time for any warning. That's why you need to have a Bush Fire Survival Plan. A copy of the NSW RFS guide to preparing a Bush Fire Survival Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the NSW RFS website or, if you are reading The Whisper electronically, by clicking on the following link: [Bush Fire Survival Plan](#).

Hazard reductions or controlled burns are part of the process of managing bush fire risks. You can find information on scheduled hazard reductions in a Local Government Area eg Palerang, by visiting the NSW RFS website and clicking on Current Operations then Hazard Reduction Burns or, if you are reading The Whisper electronically, by clicking on the following link: [Hazard Reductions Advisory page](#).

### Emergency Alert

During an emergency such as a bush fire, you may receive an emergency warning on your telephone.

The Emergency Alert system is a national system which can deliver voice message warnings via landline or text messages to mobile telephones. There is no need to register.

Messages are sent to landline telephones, such as home phones, based on the handset location. Messages are sent to mobile telephones based on the service address of the phone. In November this year this will change for Telstra customers where the message will be sent based on the location of the mobile phone. Other mobile service providers will gradually follow suit over the next 12 months.

*You can find out more at the Emergency Alert website at [www.emergencyalert.gov.au](http://www.emergencyalert.gov.au)*

### BRIGADE ACTIVITY

**Callouts:** It has been a very busy period for we volunteer fireies with the Brigade being responded to fifteen incidents since last month's newsletter. Five callouts were fire-related mostly in the brigade's area but also assisting neighbouring brigades in the Lake George Zone, three were 'good intent' calls or false alarms, and the brigade was called to seven motor vehicle accidents during the period.

Quite apart from the number of times the Brigade's appliances and crews have left the Fire Station in the past 4 weeks, emergency calls can, and do happen at any time, Mondays and Fridays were the busiest (5 and 4 callouts respectively) with Thursdays being the only day 'call-free' during the period.

**Training:** The Brigade attended three hazard reduction burns, one in Bywong, one at Stoney Creek and one in the ACT assisting the Rivers Brigade. A brief insight to the action at two of the three sites appears at the top of the next page.

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## AAA ALL AREAS WATER CARRYING

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**Bywong (low intensity acreage burn)**



Captain and crew taking a weather reading to ensure suitability and predictability of fire behaviour prior to light up. (Photo courtesy Olivia Dun – AUSCCER)

**ACT (grassland burn followed by pile burn)**



A fast moving paddock burn gets under way in grasses 1–1½ metres high.



Test burn. (Photo courtesy Olivia Dun - AUSCCER)



ACT and Wamboin firefighters adjusting defence lines in a large pile burn.

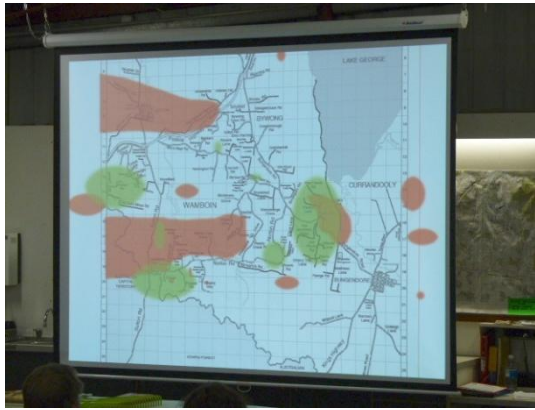
**‘Get Ready for Bushfire’ Information Session – Sat 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The ‘Get Ready for Bushfire’ Information session widely publicised by the brigade to all residents in the brigade’s area ie Bywong and Sutton (south of the Federal Highway) and Wamboin was held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September at the Wamboin Fire Station. The purpose of the session was to help people understand:

- the risks of living in a bushfire-prone area;
- the responsibility they have to reduce the risk to themselves, their family and their property, and
- the need to predetermine and take action to survive a bushfire.

An instructive DVD (different from last year) was shown to further help guide residents and property owners on how to prepare for and survive the bushfire season after which the brigade’s presenters highlighted the key aspects involved in preparing a bush fire survival plan. As on past occasions, the information/awareness session was complemented by a display of mobile firefighting equipment by local retailer Bungendore Rural Supplies plus working display of mobile pump and other fire-fighting equipment brought along by brigade members for residents to ‘play’ with. While the total number of attendees was small at 13 adults and 4 children, the Community Engagement Team was heartened by the positive feedback, and assurances by attendees that the session was a trigger for further action on their part.

If attendees needed a further dose of reality to the risk of their living in a bushfire prone area, at around 12.30pm, during general discussion and a question and answer period, brigade member’s pagers lit up in unison with that all familiar emergency callout ring. In what would have to be one of the quickest responses ever from the Fire Station, the Captain had a crew of three fires on their way in one of the brigade’s light tankers within a minute or so to support neighboring brigades tackle a bushfire near Hoskinstown.



Residents gain a better understanding of the history of bushfires in the immediate and surrounding area since 1979.



Matt Rombouts from Bungendore Rural Supplies on hand with a selection of fire fighting equipment suitable for rural residential properties.

A range of helpful Fact Sheets available from the brigade.

**WCA Bonfire & Fireworks Night.** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and what a great night it was for the Wamboin Community Association's Annual Bonfire & Fireworks. We understand from reports that several records were achieved on the night including biggest bonfire, best ever fireworks display, largest crowd, and stallholders including the brigade's food stall were kept very busy all night. Special thanks from the brigade for the great behaviour of the rumoured to be 1500 or so residents and visitors. From a brigade perspective, the relatively warm and calm night led to no unexpected fire behaviour and little in the way of embers tracking any distance. Thank you to all the firies and our ever hardworking Support Crew.

**Donation from the Eaglehawk Hotel Social Club.** The Brigade would like to thank members of the Eaglehawk Hotel Social Club for its recent very generous donation of \$1,000. The Social Club has been a long-time supporter of the brigade. As on previous occasions, the donation will be applied toward the purchase of equipment to assist fire-fighting operations.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Brigade Information 'Shop Front'.** The theme this month will be *'The Fire Danger Ratings sign – what it means for you'*. The Wamboin Fire Station and 'Shop Front' are open each Wamboin Home Produce Market day (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the month) from 9am – 12noon. The next market day is Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. You'll find us in front of the Fire Station happy to answer all your questions.

**Wamboin Brigade Website.** The site will help you to monitor local conditions and Brigade announcements. The **Community Information** section has useful information including links to other websites that provide guidance regarding bush and grass fire preparations. You'll also find the brigade's history, interesting photos and other fascinating material on the Brigade's site at <http://brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au> As always, if at any time you have a query on a fire-related issue including preparing yourself, your family and your property for a bush, grass or house fire, please contact the Brigade directly email [captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au](mailto:captain@brigade.wamboincommunity.asn.au) or phone 0409 991 340.

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**September 22nd, 2012**

Another stunning Wamboin Community Association Bonfire and Fireworks Night on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. What more can one say about what is undoubtedly the most anticipated, spectacular and cherished family community event on the WCA's calendar. I believe I could add – well done all!! - Ian Coillet



Photo above by Ian Coillet



Photo above by Jenny Warren

**BONFIRE/FIREWORKS NIGHT**

By Lofty Mason

Looking back at our big night I reckon we were very lucky with the weather. A week earlier or later and we would have had problems. With close to 2000 attendance, all the stalls run by local groups reported excellent sales. Parking continues to be a problem, there just isn't enough space, and more food is an ongoing request.

There was a bit of a problem with the heaping up of the bonfire with Ian Cuthbertson of 'Anytime Hire' being medically unable to do his traditional daredevil stunts with his backhoe. We wish Ian all the best and hope for a rapid recovery. We were somewhat disappointed that there was a clothes drier, bits of metal and some carpets dumped on the bonfire. We had to remove these items. When Charlie Montesin and I admitted the heaping up of the bonfire was too big for our machines, Darko floated in his excavator and shaped it up. Must have worked all right because the light from the fiercely burning fire competed with the fireworks.

The clean up next morning went pretty well however we will need more rubbish bins next year. The remains of the fire continued to emit smoke for a few days which seemed to drift due East. I assured Mayor Pete Harrison that this was a traditional smoking ceremony performed to honour his election but I don't think I convinced him. The ashes of the bonfire will be used to enhance The Hall golf green.

Because of my position behind the servery on the night I was asked a couple of times 'How can Wamboin put on such a great night?' I believe it is possible because of the local Community involvement. It starts with the organisation by the WCA followed by the publicity in The Whisper, then the involvement of the residents who supply the bonfire material. On the night, all the local groups pitch in. The WCA, the Fire Brigade, Pony Club, Sutton School reps., Scouts, Church, Playgroup, Golf Club, Market Coffee, and Wonderful Women all work together to ensure a great evening. Next morning the clean up ticks along with people dropping in to take rubbish to the dump etc. In summary, in my opinion, it is because most of the Community gets involved is 'how Wamboin puts on such a great night'.



3 Photos by Jenny Warren



2 Photos by Jenny Warren

## WAMBOIN'S BONFIRE & FIREWORKS – 22 September 2012

By John van der Straaten, WCA Secretary

Scheduling the annual Bonfire and Fireworks for the 2<sup>nd</sup> last Saturday in September is always a gamble. It is springtime in Wamboin and we all know how quickly the weather can change here - and the night temperature drop! Well, this year, after a great sunny day, the Gods smiled on the estimated 1500 - 1800 people who came to the Community Hall to see the huge bonfire managed by the Fire Brigade and the spectacular fireworks display coordinated by Martin Brady's Fireworks Australia.

It is a very popular community event which brings in, not only local residents, but other family members and friends from the ACT and Bungendore. This event would not happen if not for the goodwill and energies of some nameless special people and community groups who undertake the catering, donate the prizes for the raffle, and take on the numerous other jobs required to make the evening a success. The Wamboin Community Association would specially thank the Fire Brigade for organising the parking, manning the entrances and ensuring the safety of the crowd around the bonfire. The WCA hopes that you all enjoyed the large variety of foods and beverages, the warmth of the bonfire and the vitality of the fireworks and, again, thanks the sponsors/donors for their generosity in providing the raffle prizes.

The raffle winners were:

\$50 voucher from Lambert Vineyard - red D62 - Rochelle	\$30 meat tray - yellow 82E - Juliet Dowling
2 bottles wine from Keith France - red D76 - R Mallam	Packet of coffee beans - yellow 67 E - S Blake
3 bottles wine from Inland Trading Company - yellow 86E - Alice B-K	\$30 meat tray - red D74 - Ned
Box organic vegetables from C & G Foster - yellow E62 - Pam Muston	Packet of coffee beans - yellow 90E - M King
\$50 voucher from Shepherds Run - purple E97 - Gordon	4 bottles wine from Anon - green D100 - Ian Evans
Standard rose from Eureka Plants - black C100 - Helen Montesin	2 doz eggs from Pendon Produce - purple F42 - Melinda Hughes

### Another Voice

Congratulations to all those involved with organising the Bonfire Night. As always it was great. The food was excellent, in fact the nachos were the best I'd had in a long time! The weather was perfect – I didn't need a thick coat or a beanie, and the fireworks themselves were fantastic. We've been to about 5 Bonfire nights and they just keep getting better. There were first timers near us who were heard saying that they had no idea it would be this good. Well done all round, and thanks! - Cheryl Jackson, Denley Drive



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## Wamboin in the Spring



As we all know, one of the joys of living in Wamboin is the wildlife, which at this time of year can be amazing. This year, our particular delight has been echidnas. We from time to time see one of these waddling across our property. More often, we see the damage that they have done to ants' nests, or signs of their passage from overturned stones. Earlier this week, however, one was spotted nestling behind a rock.

This, however, was nothing: for one was then spotted underneath our car. Closer examination led to the discovery of another— and then, a third! They seemed to be happy enough, and not too bothered by being observed and photographed, to say nothing of the background wailing of our elderly cat (not directed at them, but just a consequence of being out and about

rather than in his snug box by the fire).

The echidnas gradually made their way off through trees and undergrowth, and were last seen exploring an old wooden pallet which had been used to transport bricks. As they were all a reasonable size, and we thought that echidnas were usually solitary, we were not quite sure what they were up to, one was much smaller – maybe a family? In case anyone doubts us, or has any ideas about why three were to be found together, here is a picture of them under the car.

Soon it will be time to start looking for the golf balls which magically appear from time to time. We have about a dozen and a half at the moment – delivered we think by the crows. Pity we don't play golf!

-- Pam and Jeremy Shearmur

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<b>Connectivity Conservation and Corridors: Connecting Environment, People and Production</b> Wednesday 24 October 2012 - 8.30am - 5pm - Country Comfort Greenway		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is connectivity conservation?</li> <li>• Why and where do we need it?</li> <li>• What are the benefits - for wildlife, for primary production, for ecosystems, and for us?</li> <li>• What's the latest thinking on connectivity conservation and corridors and what does it mean for the upper Murrumbidgee catchment?</li> <li>• What's working, what needs to change, and what does the future hold?</li> </ul>		
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<b>Robyn Williams</b> ABC Radio (The Science Show, Ockham's Razor) <b>Veronica Doerr</b> CSIRO Division of Ecosystem Sciences <b>Rod Mason</b> Senior Ngarigo traditional owner, Cooma <b>Jeremy Wilson</b> Primary producer, Yass River Facilitator: <b>Rosemary Purdie</b> former ACT Environment Commissioner		
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## WAMBOIN GOLF

by John Whitney

Traditionally the first game of spring is the Mason Spring Trophy, and for that very reason we all gathered on a beautiful sunny afternoon to partake in Lofty's three stick event over both 9 and 18 holes on the wonderful Wamboin course. No Spring Trophy event would be complete without those mouth watering home made Spring Rolls, along with other wonderful kitchen treats prepared by our very own Joan Mason - thanks again Joan.

**Spring Trophy Winner:** The 18 hole event and the new holder of the Mason Spring Trophy, sweeping all aside with a staggering 78/60, was Keith France. The handicapper has noted this big win and will probably take a good 11% off his handicap. Second was Tim Barter with 81/67 and third was Charles Guscott on 87/67, both on count back.

The 9 hole winners were Ken Gordon 38/33, Deb Gordon 53/32 and John Whitney with 38/32 ocb. Congratulations to Alex Gordon for winning the Juniors with fine rounds of golf by Rachel Schroder and Madison Gordon. I believe we have now mentioned the entire Gordon family. Well done.

Ball winners for ntp and long drive were Nev Schroder x3, Larry King x3, Paul Griffin x2 and Rob Gorham.

Next months event is sponsored by L & L King (not to be confused with L & L King) so come and join us from the Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin. All



welcome. Picture: Spring Trophy winner Keith France with Joan Mason

## WAMBOIN HOME PRODUCE MARKETS

Contact – Joan Mason, Ph. 62 383 258

Wamboin Community Hall

112 Bingley Way.

A great start to our markets when it all came back into action in September. Excellent number of stalls, and a great variety of goods to buy, and surprisingly a reasonable amount of home produce which was great for this time of the year.

To name a few of the goods you can buy at our markets but, may vary from month to month are- Cakes, (Alison is taking orders for Homemade Christmas Puddings) Biscuits, Lollies, Nuts, Dried fruits, Jams, Preserves, Eggs, Flowers, Produce (when available) Stewed/frozen apple, Local Honey/products, Jewellery, Knitted items, Soaps, Cards, Books, Plants, Worm Juice. Also we have egg and bacon rolls, together with delicious scones with jam & cream, & hot coffee in "The Olde Coffee Shop" Come along to our next markets and see for yourself. If you would like a stall, please contact me.

20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – 9am – 12 noon



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### Bungendore SES Assessment Day

Bungendore SES Unit recently held an assessment day for four members who gained their General Rescue certificate. They are Rowan McKeever, Peter Adrian, Nicola McDonald and Annie Larsen-Tacon (pictured). This was held at Harry Cassilis's (Braidwood SES unit) property just outside Braidwood and proved to be a brilliant day both weather wise and for the crew who put in a stirring effort. Next in their training will be storm damage which is a follow up to General Rescue.

Over the past month New South Wales SES volunteers have responded to storm events that were destructive, wide spread and highly visible to the media and community. These operations responded to over 2200 Request for Assistance, some with significant building damage and trees down.

To respond to these requests our volunteers must be very well trained. If you are interested in becoming a member of our local SES unit and volunteering for these essential activities our training night is each Monday night at 7.30 in the Emergency Services building corner Ellendon and King Street, Bungendore. If you require any further information regarding our training please contact our Unit Controller, Jan Smith on 0429 310 932 or view our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NSWSES Bungendore](http://www.facebook.com/NSWSES Bungendore). - Jenny Riley, Media Officer, Bungendore Unit, SES

### Rainfall and Temperatures in Wamboin -- 37 Year Statistics from the Robertsons

August rainfall to 26/8 ... 37mm	(Aug 2011 ... 57mm)
2012 rainfall to 26/8 ... 587.5mm	(2011 to 31/8 ... 406.25mm)
Average Sept. rainfall ... 63.1mm	(Sept 2011 ... 39.5mm)
Wettest Sept ... 146mm in 1978	Driest Sept ... 6mm in 1994
Wettest Sept day ... 48mm on 19/9/85	Hottest Sept day ... 24C on 18/9/81
Coldest Sept day ... 5C on 4/9/82 & 28/9/09	Coldest Sept night ... -2C on 4/9/00, 12 & 13/9/11

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## How The Whisper Gets Delivered Each Month

Trish Rice has been delivering the Whisper to Majors Close for a couple years as well as taking batches of Whispers to eight other deliverers. She asked if someone else would take a turn. Kathy Handel volunteered to take over the distributor role and Diana Griffin said she would take on the Majors Close deliveries. Thanks to all three of you.

The 50 or so people below each spend time every month to make sure that Wamboin and Bywong homes own and receive a free community newspaper written by residents. If your deliverer has been on the job for a long time and you have a bit of time you could spare, think about offering to take over the job or help out. If you already have too many tasks in your month, every now and then give your volunteer paperwoman/man/boy/girl a thank you.

Thanks to each of you. - Ned Noel, volunteer editor

**168: CO-ORDINATED HELEN MONTESIN: ph 6238 3208**

Fay Kelly	Norton Rd West Area from Cmpbl Pl	20	Bill Owen	Cooper Rd	26
Helen Montesin	Fernloff Rd	33	Stuart Whitten	Canning Cl	17
Julie Veal	Poppet Rd (for all on road)	32	Alan Rope	Sutton Rd	40

**284: CO-ORDINATED BY KATHY HANDEL: ph 6238 3596**

Joan Mason	Bingley Way	48	Margaret Heleimin	Merino Vale Dr	17
Sue Ward	Norton Rd (Bingley to Weeroona)	32	Anne Gardner	Weeroona Dr (Norton to Majors)	31
Diana Griffin	Majors Cl	18	David Anderson	Weeroona Dr (Majors to Denley)	36
Ned Noel	Pal Cncl (14), Advertisers/ Misc (45)	59	Penny Evans	Norton Rd (Campbell to Bingley)	24
Kathy Handel	Yalana West	19			

**232: CO-ORDINATED BY KERRIE FISHER: ph 6238 3489**

Lesley Page	Valley View Ln	4	Deb Gordon	Yalana East	44
Colleen Foster	B'dore Rd to Nrtm Rd	22	Rob Gorham	South end Clare Valley	38
Cassie Fisher	Clare Ln	12	Lyle Montesin	The Forest Rd area incl Joe Rcks	60
Dominica Lorima	North end Clare Valley	42	Bungendore Foodworks	Bungendore	10

**249: CO-ORDINATED BY JOHN VAN DER STRAATEN: ph 6238 3590**

Sheryl Barnes	Denley Dr (Sth End 1/2 way2 Kestral)	15	Brian Higgison	Denley Dr (Birchmans to Kestral inc)	12
Don Malcolmson	Macs Reef Rd (Denley to Gum Flat)	7	Rhett Cox	Macs Reef Rd (Newington to Bankers)	7
Connie & Hans Bachor	Dnly Dr to Macs Rf Rd incl Bchm Gr	28	Morag & Guy Cotsell	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	30
Nora Stewart	Rovere Ln	7	Sandra Favre	Macs Reef Rd b'n Nwngtn& Harriott	20
Carol & Clive Boughton	Macs Reef Rd (Bankers to Fed Hwy)	33	Joan Milnor	Birriwa Rd plus Macs Rf Rd to Harriott	30
Beth Hope	Gum Flat Ln	6	Tony Bond	Hogan Dr/Orana Dr/Yuranga Dr	35
Kevin Beier	DenleyDr (Kestral2 1/2 way 2SthEnd)	19			

**140: CO-ORDINATED BY IAN COILLET ph 6238 3425**

Michael & Jose Deane	FdHwSvcRd/Bidges/Hickey/O'Gold	63	Jenny Bryce	Wattle Flat Rd	11
Robert&Marzena Luton	Sutton Park Estate	48	Penny & Russell Ball	Macs Reef (Denley Dr to Bungdre Rd)	18

**202: CO-ORDINATED BY KEVIN ANDERSON ph 6236 9333**

Phil & Pam Dawes	Donnelly Rd & Donnelly Ln	25	David Featherston	Summerhill and Creekborough Rds	25
Kevin Anderson	B'dore Rd (Macs Reef to Summerhill)	35	Diana & Keith Gascoine	Snowgum Rd	26
Kerrie Gougeon	B'dore Rd (Fed Hwy to Summerhill)	25	Chris Fowler	Shinglehouse & Millyn Rds	20
Sue Aunella	Brooks Rd	21	Richard Holding	Wyoming & Doust Rds	25

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### Where Are Your Dogs Right Now!

A nasty incident has occurred in Merino Vale Drive where dogs who were left unattended during the night have caused distress to neighbouring sheep who were in the process of lambing and had newborn lambs. Unfortunately not all of the lambs were accounted for and did not make it out of the incident alive. There have also been many sitings lately of joey's been chased down by dogs. We urge you all to be conscious of this and to ensure your dogs are kept attended in some way at all times.

If you could print this, or if you can think of something better to say, it would be greatly appreciated. The ewes and lambs have been taken away for the time being, and will be brought back when the lambs are a little older and can handle being chased a little better!

Kind regards, Kath Hansen (Merino Vale Drive, Wamboin)

### Birchmans Grove Hogan Drive Intersection

This is a plea to our neighbours travelling out of Hogan Drive and Birchmans Grove. We live down the far end of Denley Drive and drive out past Hogan Drive and Birchmans Road every morning. At least once a week, approaching both these roads, residents coming out of the roads either fail to give way, give way at the last minute, or pull out through the intersection and onto the verge on Denley while we drive past. Nine years ago, the development on the end of Denley Drive added 35 new blocks to the road. Not all of them are built on, but there would be an estimated 50 more cars (2 cars each from 25 blocks) coming down Denley Drive now. There is a very good chance, that when you travel out of Hogan Drive or Birchmans Grove there WILL BE a vehicle coming down Denley from your right. Even if there is no Give Way or Stop sign, you are required to give way to traffic coming from your right.

Please take the extra 2 seconds to slow down and check the road properly.

Thank you. -- Cheryl Jackson, Denley Drive

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## News from WWOW -- The Wonderful Women of Wamboin by Gail Knight

(Editor's Note: Gail includes news from August and September in this Article, as due to a mistake on my part what she sent for August was not printed in the August Issue. - Ned Noel)

WWOW meet informally once a week over tea and coffee enjoying each other's company and meeting new friends. Over the last couple of months we enjoyed a variety of speakers.

In August WWOW enjoyed listening to a talk by one of our own, namely Sally Saunders. Sally is currently undertaking a 12-month intensive training program to become a guide at the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). So she was in the perfect position to give an engaging and informative talk on the history of the NGA, the breadth of its collection and the vast diversity within its education program. Sally graduates at the end of the year, so we look forward to visiting the NGA and perhaps be lucky enough to be guided by our very own WWOW. The talent in our group is limitless.



Then in September, local lawyer Jan Leonard spoke to us about end-of-life issues. She said 'the law can serve us well if we plan ahead'. We need to make decisions now regarding money, accommodation and any medical care we may require in our declining years. She recommended we have a General Power of Attorney and an Enduring Power of Attorney. "We are living longer than ever therefore dementia will affect more of us", Jan said adding that an Enduring Power of Attorney continues after we are incapable of managing our affairs. She also suggested we consider an Enduring Guardianship and an Advanced Care Directive. For more information search for 'planning ahead' on

the NSW Government website where you can also download forms. (Photo: Liz Hendrickson displaying her latest quilt.)

And last week, local entity Chris Davies invited her sister Lesley Sieglhoff to talk about the evolution of nursing she has witnessed and been a part of over the last 45 years. Lesley is an associate dean and senior lecturer at Flinders University in South Australia but began her career as a registered nurse. So she is more than qualified to describe the journey of nurses from doctor's handmaid to highly educated health practitioner. Her talk generated much comment amongst our members, a number of whom were registered nurses. It was a great walk down memory lane but also an opportunity to acknowledge the academic and technological advancement nurses have achieved in health and science today.

Once again, we produced drainage bags for breast cancer patients post surgery. In the last couple of months we made 64 bags. One of us (possibly the author) isn't much of a seamstress but in August decided to have a go. After hurdling many difficulties eg incorrect tension, much unpicking, thread tangling and knotting, she managed to complete two bags and that was just sewing on handles. So take heart, anyone can contribute.

However, at the other end of the scale, two of our group with very nimble thimbles displayed a couple of stunning quilts they had recently completed. Liz Hendrickson must be the most prolific quilter I know. The pattern and colours in her quilt echoed those of a stained glass window. While Leatrice Behardien's quilt displayed an intricate series of panels depicting thirteen fairy-tale-type houses. Each panel took one month to complete.

At the recent Wamboin Bonfire Night, WWOW's curry stand proved as popular this year as in the past. In fact it was a complete sell-out yet again. Due to the energy and enthusiasm of a great core of women, we succeeded in raising substantial funds which we will inject into the local community. (Photo: Leatrice Behardien with her quilt.)



Last week we celebrated our sixth birthday with founder Claire Ayling visiting from Goulburn. Who could believe that her germ of an idea has grown to this - a weekly get-together catching up with friends? Over the years we've raised funds for local, interstate and international causes, we've celebrated the births of precious grandchildren living near and far, grieved over the loss of two of our members, helped each other in times of need, celebrated birthdays, learnt new craft skills and along the way, we've had a lot of fun.

All women are welcome at WWOW — Mondays, 10 AM to 12 NOON at St Andrew's Anglican Church on the corner of Poppet Road and Norton Road in Wamboin.

For more information contact Gail Ritchie Knight 0416 097 500 [whirlwind@argonite.com.au](mailto:whirlwind@argonite.com.au).

## St Andrews and St Peters Church Notices

by Robyn Robertson

We are looking forward to seeing you at 10am on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> October, in the Sutton Community Hall, to celebrate the launch of the SRMD (Sutton Road Mission District), with the merger of St Peters and St Andrews and the separation from our historic association with St Johns, Reid. We expect this to be a great occasion, with food and refreshments after the service.

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, members of a Car Club will make St Andrews a check point for morning tea before resuming their rally. Obviously, news of our cooking skills has travelled. The morning tea will be provided by a group within the congregation.

Kids Club at St Andrews is in recess for the school holidays but will resume on Friday, 19th October, meeting at the usual time of 5.30pm until 7pm. Young children, and their parents, are invited to enjoy songs, stories, games and a light meal together. As the weather warms and the days grow longer more activities will be held outside in the gardens.

The WOWS celebrated their sixth anniversary on Monday, September 24th and the church building at St Andrews reverberated with its usual Monday morning laughter and chatter, perhaps upped a decibel or two. It is always good to see the church facilities used for such activities, and it is indeed wonderful that this vibrant, community minded women's group has gone from strength to strength. Congratulations, WOWS!

At the "best ever" Fireworks/Bonfire night at the Wamboin Community hall last weekend, Robyn Robertson was there, once again, with the St Andrews' Gluhwein stall, and as usual the gluhwein was very popular.

Church services are held at St Andrews on the first and third Sundays of each month, and at St Peters on the second and fourth Sundays. Services at both churches begin at 9am.

Contacts: St Andrews Robyn Robertson (Warden) tel: 62383202  
St Peters Peter Cartwright (Warden) tel: 62303202

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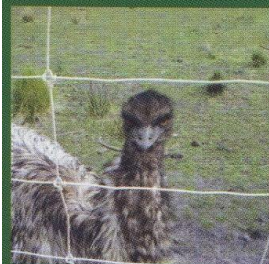
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## Mindless Cruelty ..... Again

I know this is another kangaroo story, but it is one that should make us all sit up and take note.

Last year I wrote about attending a Wildcare rescue along Norton Road and discovering a dead kangaroo with a noose tied around its neck. There was evidence the animal had been dragged behind a motor vehicle. And whilst there seems to be few acts of cruelty to wildlife reported, some mindless idiot has done it again.

Three weeks ago a couple of good Samaritans driving to work saw a kangaroo with an arrow sticking out of its thigh – munching grass on the side of the road near 840 Norton Road. Knowing that I am with Wildcare, they knocked on my door to ask me to have a look and see what could be done.



The kangaroo was a large male. And it had an arrow embedded in its thigh. It didn't seem overly concerned about the arrow but it was there nonetheless and must have been a source of pain and discomfort. My first thought was "what twit did this?" The likely outcome is the injury from the arrow will become infected and the kangaroo will go downhill from there until it dies. Optimistically the arrow will get knocked out, as it didn't seem to be deeply embedded, and the kangaroo might then recover. I did think about euthanasing the kangaroo with a licensed firearm, but it was not safe to shoot and it was quite mobile - hopping over the fence into the nearby property. Another option was Wildcare's dart gun, which can be used to sedate an animal, thereby allowing treatment to be given. I chose the latter option and left a note with the nearby property owner to keep an eye out and inform Wildcare if it is seen again.

As with last year's incident, the perpetrator is most likely a member of a local family who lives nearby. Perhaps you have someone in your family who owns a bow and arrow and likes to take pot-shots at anything that moves? Maybe you should quiz him (its got to be a him) as to what he has been up to and remind him that this is a mindless act of cruelty. Perhaps this is not the first time this person has targeted wildlife. Not surprisingly it is illegal to target wildlife in this way. And if you have any information about this incident, then you can contact the National Parks and Wildlife Service, tel. 6226 7166 and they can investigate.


As a community, we should be concerned about what has happened here. Clearly there is someone amongst us who readily disregards the Law and quite happily discharges a lethal weapon in an irresponsible way.

- Philip Machin, 6238 3717

## Request for Your Words Next Month

Many of you who read this Whisper have worked to make it what it is by contributing your own words or photos to help fill it out. Thank you for what you did. To many of you, thanks for going out on a limb and writing something many times over the years for everyone in Wamboin and Bywong and East Sutton to read.

To everyone who reads this Whisper, think about writing some of your own words, including photos if you wish, to make the November Whisper a good read for everyone else. A variety of contributors voices help us all so see more. - Ned Noel, editor, [whisper@wamboincommunity.asn](mailto:whisper@wamboincommunity.asn) or [nednoel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nednoel@optusnet.com.au) or ph 6238 3484 or mailbox at 17 Reedy Creek Place



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## You and Your Vote - An Analysis of the 2012 Palerang Local Government Election

by Pete Harrison

The September Council election was the third for Palerang Council, the fifth if we include the two by-elections, and it's probably no surprise that things are becoming a little more predictable.

There are probably two primary contributing factors at play here.

First of all, our shire is maturing, after its uneasy birth eight years ago. In that first election, in 2004, many candidates were completely unknown to a large portion of the new shire, and attitudes within the shire were also probably similarly unknown to a large number of the candidates. In the second election, in 2008, there was clearly a desire for change, and most of the candidates were better known. Although certain idiosyncrasies of our voting system masked an accurate picture of community attitudes on that occasion, the makeup of the Council was more or less representative. Subsequent by-elections, however, confused the situation, so that once again we approached the 2012 elections with a level of discontent evident within the community.

Given the stability of the result throughout the count in 2012 (i.e. how small a role preferences played in the final result), it is probably reasonable to suggest that the makeup of the present Council more closely represents the balance of opinion throughout the shire than on previous occasions.

Based on the results of elections to date, it emerges that the shire is divided roughly 70/30, between those wanting more consultative and controlled development planning, and those wanting more planning freedom. With nine councillors, this represents somewhere between a 6/3 and 7/2 makeup and based on commitments made by candidates during the election campaign, this is precisely what we now have in our new Council.

It's worth noting, of course, that while Council deals with a raft of issues, and in many cases councillors are in accord with one another, planning issues historically tend to polarise views and expose councillors' fundamental philosophical differences.

The second factor at play is the voting system itself, specifically the option for above-the-line voting. Above-the-line voting allows residents to vote for a group of candidates, generally with a common social or political ideology, rather than requiring residents to vote (below-the-line) for a number of individual candidates. This produces a much more consistent, and hence predictable, distribution of preferences, since each above-the-line vote for a particular group yields the same sequence of preferences for the individual group members.

The results of the 2012 Palerang Council election are summarised, from the count sheets provided on the NSW Local Government Election website ([www.votensw.info](http://www.votensw.info)), in the adjacent spreadsheet.

In the 2012 election, 63% of the vote was cast above-the-line, up from 40% at the 2008 election, with the result that it was relatively easy to predict the result based solely on first preference votes. In fact, with a quota of 769 votes required for automatic election, the ninth candidate was more than 150 votes ahead of tenth after distributing first preference votes, and that gap essentially remained constant throughout the count.

Moving on to the numbers themselves, for the 2012 Palerang Council election 8,469 of the 10,282 registered voters cast a vote, a slightly higher than usual turnout of 82.4%. Of these, 7,688 were formal votes. The informal vote rate, 9.2% (781), was relatively high for Palerang (usually about 6%), although some LGAs recorded rates as high as 16%. Reports from scrutineers indicate that this was largely due to confusion over how to vote, many people creating an informal vote by placing numbers both above AND below the line, and many others voting only for three or four of the ungrouped candidates, and thus not offering the five preferences required for a formal vote.

As it turned out, the allocation of first preference votes was a good forecast of the ultimate result. Listed below are the Groups and candidates that figured in the final analysis (the other 13 candidates have been omitted, not through any lack of respect but for brevity). Within the individual groups, the number of candidates with a chance of being elected could be determined by considering the Group quotas. For example, Group A, with 1.57 quotas, could possibly have had two candidates elected, Group B, with 2.16 quotas, two and possibly three, and so on. Of the ungrouped candidates, the Ians, Marjason and Peters, with less than half a quota each faced an uphill battle, while Paul Cockram and Richard Graham looked a little more likely to make it across the line.

These were indeed the final 14 candidates in the count, and the last five were eliminated in exactly the order one would expect from inspection of the above table. David Holthouse was excluded on the 20<sup>th</sup> count, Greg George on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Ian Peters on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mike McColl on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Ian Marjason was then excluded as the lowest polling remaining candidate to complete the count. The only significant change in the order of election came with Ian Peters' exclusion, as most of his

Group/Candidate	Votes	%	Quotas
Group A (Country Labor)	1209	15.73%	1.57
Garth Morrison			
Mike McColl			
Group B (Palerang's Future)	1664	21.64%	2.16
Mark Schweikert			
Trevor Hicks			
David Holthouse			
Group C (Community First)	1428	18.57%	1.86
Belinda Hogarth-Boyd			
Peter Marshall			
Group D (Community Voice)	1780	23.15%	2.31
Pete Harrison			
Keith France			
Greg George			
<i>Ungrouped Candidates</i>			
Ian Marjason	352	4.58%	0.46
Paul Cockram	502	6.53%	0.65
Ian Peters	242	3.15%	0.31
Richard Graham	511	6.65	0.66

preferences went to Paul Cockram (see spreadsheet) who then achieved quota ahead of Peter Marshall, even though he'd been trailing in most of the count to this point.

Of the other candidates, referring again to the spreadsheet, it can be seen that most of David Holthouse's preferences went to Trevor Hicks, staying within the Group as expected, and Greg George's were largely split between Peter Marshall and Paul Cockram, in line with the preferencing recommend by Group D for above-the-line and below-the-line voters. Although most of Mike McColl's preferences exhausted (only 30% of the Group A votes included a second preference), those that remained went mostly to Peter Marshall, again in line with the Group A recommendation.


In the end, Pete Harrison, Mark Schweikert, Belinda Hogarth-Boyd, Garth Morrison and Keith France were all elected on first preference votes, Trevor Hicks and Paul Cockram achieved quota during the preference count, and Peter Marshall and Richard Graham, while not achieving quota, were elected as the remaining candidates with the highest number of votes.


Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
<b>Candidate</b>	<b>BTL</b>	<b>ATL</b>																									
Harrison, Pete	227	1393	1620																								
Schwiekert, Mark	84	1364	1448	1448																							
Hogarth-Boyd, Belinda	172	1061	1233	1233	1233																						
Morrison, Garth	130	980	1110	1110	1110	1110																					
France, Keith	13	13	793	793	794	795																					
Hicks, Trevor	54	54	57	723	723	724	724	724	725	727	728	734	734	735	736	747	748	749	749	810	810	810					
Cockram, Paul	502	502	515	515	517	518	518	518	519	519	519	521	522	533	537	537	542	550	553	576	585	633	799	799	799		
Marshall, Peter	63	63	70	71	522	523	523	523	525	525	525	526	527	527	532	539	542	546	550	579	582	620	627	629	741	741	741
Graham, Richard	511	511	513	514	515	516	516	516	516	518	518	518	518	518	519	521	522	525	526	530	544	559	612	614	619	619	619
Marjason, Ian	352	352	359	360	361	363	363	363	364	364	364	364	364	364	365	365	371	373	378	382	400	428	448	455	462	462	
McColl, Mike	29	29	29	29	355	355	357	359	359	359	359	364	364	364	365	366	366	384	384	389	389	401	404	405	x		
Peters, Ian	242	242	245	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	246	248	250	250	252	256	257	268	282	287	x		281		
George, Greg	108	108	108	112	112	112	138	138	139	139	142	142	143	143	144	162	163	163	204	209	216	x		38			
Holthouse, David	83	83	85	90	90	90	90	91	91	93	93	94	98	98	98	98	124	127	129	132	x		70				
Hand, Sandra	45	45	45	47	51	52	52	52	54	55	56	58	58	66	70	82	82	95	102	x		6					
Montesin, Helen	26	26	41	42	43	44	44	44	44	46	60	60	62	62	65	66	67	71	x		18						
Smith, Alison	44	44	44	44	44	45	45	46	46	47	47	57	58	62	63	63	63	x		6				473 (Total exhausted votes)			
Rutledge, William	42	42	42	42	43	43	44	44	49	49	49	49	55	55	56	56	x		3								
Dignan, Cecily	25	25	28	29	29	29	29	29	30	30	30	30	33	34	42	x											
Henry, Naomi	24	24	24	26	28	29	29	29	31	31	31	31	32	33	x												
Richards, Bronwyn	26	26	26	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	x													
Bos, Kerry	23	23	24	25	25	25	25	25	26	26	26	27	x														
Chapman, Jill	20	20	20	20	22	22	23	23	24	24	x		1														
van der Straaten, John	13	13	13	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	20	x		1													
Falkiner, James	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	16	16	x																	
Langford, Geoff	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	13	x																		
van der Linden, Fernando	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	x																			
<b>Totals (Formal Vote)</b>	2890	4798	7688																								
Informal			781	9%																							
Electoral Role			8469	82%																							
<b>Quota</b>			10282																								
			769																								

n	Total votes accumulated to this Count
*	Surplus Vote Distribution (Preferences distributed as per column counts)
x	Excluded Candidate (Preferences distributed as per column counts)
n	Exhausted Ballots this Count

Raw Data: <http://votensw.info/palerang-council/councillor>

Note: The above spreadsheet is available from the WCA website, under Palerang Council > 2012 Election

<h3>Wombat Calendar back for 2013</h3> <p>The Native Animal Rescue Group 2013 wombat calendar is now on sale! Better than ever. And still only \$10. Money raised helps the rescue and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife. See <i>Velvet</i> in June (pic)! Buy one for friends, neighbours, relatives and yourself. Help to sell them too. Contact: Lesley Machin 6238 3717 (Weeroona Drive) or <a href="mailto:machin4@bigpond.com">machin4@bigpond.com</a></p>  <p>Meet <i>Velvet</i> in June</p>	<h3>OAKLEIGH BERRY FARM</h3> <p>Raspberry, Blackberry, Quince, Feijoa. Grown locally on our farm on Sutton Road and made into Jam, Curd, Vinegar, Syrup, Jelly, Sauce, Paste. Dried into Leathers, Preserved in spirits. All available for purchase at the Wamboin Produce Markets each month. Fresh fruit available seasonally Alan and Eleanor Ph. 62383224 Mob. 0429 434944 <a href="mailto:alan.lope@priam.com.au">alan.lope@priam.com.au</a></p>
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## Wamboin Muse

Jill Gregory

In order to help out some dear friends I was obliged, somewhat reluctantly, to join the twenty first century. I had to buy a pocket sized, lose it in your handbag- too smart for its own good type phone. For that amount of money I could have bought something really exciting like a painting or a holiday, but instead I purchased an item that gave me as much pleasure as a new set of wheel spanners. Helping out our friends, however, didn't just involve a tentative leap across the technological divide. It afforded us a few days of living in an old, solid, two storied building, furnished with antiques, echoing with history and graced by a grand, sweeping staircase that tested the knees. It could have been the setting for a Victorian novel. The downside, however, was that there was no garden and no bush outlook, just buildings, roads and rail tracks lit by street lights. And instead of singing frogs and birds, there was only the rumble of traffic and the low throb of trains passing in the night.

In our absence spring in Wamboin erupted, and what a rapturous spring it is. The garden is smiling with yellow, pink, white and blue, and the exotic trees look as if they are being coloured- in with a light green crayon before our very eyes. The massed choir at dawn is my reward for waking early, with a pair of nesting grey shrike thrushes in leading roles. I even heard Jo's powerful owl the other night, and saw a glistening black shingle back soaking up the midday sun. But I've been working hard since my return, snipping, digging and mulching, and being forever grateful that I have a wheelbarrow with pneumatic tiles. I'm piling up mountains of material to be mulched, and attempting to pull out my old nemesis, Peruvian Lily!

I didn't know what peruvian lily was until a few years ago, and at first I had, from a distance, quite welcomed its pretty flowers when nothing much else was flowering in the garden. Then I had a visit from a fellow gardening friend, someone much older and wiser in the language and lore of the garden than I, and I asked her what it might be. She immediately whipped out her smart phone, pressed a few buttons, slid her finger over the screen and announced with great authority, "It's Peruvian Lily". From that time on my garden was doomed. Naming it seemed to give it legitimacy, and it developed legs.

This season I enlisted the aid of my strong, determined, mechanically minded offsider to help me remove it. He attacked the garden bed with great purpose and dug deeply, leaving it looking as if it had been taken over by giant rabbits. I averted my gaze from the unsightly mounds for a week or so. He moved on to other areas where he can best express his gardening talents such as feeding the screaming mulcher and chain sawing fallen logs. When I finally felt that I could tackle the site I raked it and discovered to my horror a million little pieces of peruvian lily chopped up into perfect self propagating lengths!

I can forgive my strong man helper, however. I should not have asked him for that kind of help. His skills amaze me but he was never intended to be on the nurturing side of a shovel. However, I blame my IT adept horticultural friend with the smart-alec phone. If she hadn't been so quick and so clever at identifying that rotten plant, I might still be blissfully ignorant that peruvian lily is my challenge each spring.

I wouldn't live anywhere else..... and I'm also grateful that the IT savvy bower bird that makes the telephone call on cue each glorious dawn chooses to live out of hearing further up the creek! He's not in danger of mimicking the call on my phone. I have it tucked away in a safe place...a very safe place.

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